

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A pressure management system that balances pressure between first and second fluid circuits of a fuel cell system, comprising:

a first fluid reservoir associated with said first fluid circuit, said first fluid circuit functioning to regulate a temperature of a fuel cell stack; and

a second fluid reservoir associated with said second fluid circuit and in fluid communication with said first fluid reservoir, said second fluid circuit functioning to regulate a temperature of an electrical load of said fuel cell system, wherein a fluid is transferred from said first fluid reservoir to said second fluid reservoir during an over-pressure condition within said first fluid circuit.

2. (Original) The pressure management system of claim 1 further comprising a fluid passage that enables said fluid communication between said first and second fluid reservoirs.

3. (Original) The pressure management system of claim 2 wherein a first fluid retained within said first fluid reservoir flows into said second fluid reservoir during said over-pressure condition.

4. (Original) The pressure management system of claim 1 further comprising a first relief mechanism that is disposed between said first and second fluid reservoirs and that selectively enables fluid communication between said first and second fluid reservoirs.

5. (Original) The pressure management system of claim 4 wherein when a first pressure is achieved within said first fluid reservoir, said fluid flows through said first relief mechanism to said second fluid reservoir to relieve said first pressure.

6. (Original) The pressure management system of claim 4 further comprising a second relief mechanism that is disposed between said first and second fluid reservoirs and that selectively enables fluid communication between said first and second fluid reservoirs.

7. (Original) The pressure management system of claim 6 wherein when a second pressure is achieved within said second fluid reservoir, said fluid flows through said second relief mechanism to said first fluid reservoir to relieve said second pressure.

8. (Original) The pressure management system of claim 1 further comprising a relief mechanism in fluid communication with said first fluid reservoir, said relief mechanism exhausting said fluid to atmosphere during a critical pressure condition.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system, comprising:

a fuel cell having a hydrogen-containing feed gas flowing therethrough;

a first fluid circuit that includes a first fluid reservoir that is in fluid communication with said fuel cell and that has a first fluid flowing therethrough, said first fluid circuit functioning to regulate a temperature of a fuel cell stack; and

a second fluid circuit that includes a second fluid reservoir and that has a second fluid flowing therethrough, said second fluid circuit functioning to regulate a temperature of an electrical load of said fuel cell system, wherein a fluid is transferred from said first

fluid reservoir to said second fluid reservoir during an over-pressure condition within said first fluid circuit.

18. (Original) The fuel cell system of claim 17 further comprising a fluid passage that enables fluid communication between said first and second fluid reservoirs.

19. (Original) The fuel cell system of claim 18 wherein said first fluid from said first fluid reservoir flows into said second fluid reservoir during said over-pressure condition.

20. (Original) The fuel cell system of claim 17 further comprising a first relief mechanism that is disposed between said first and second fluid reservoirs and that selectively enables fluid communication between said first and second fluid reservoirs.

21. (Original) The fuel cell system of claim 20 wherein when a first pressure is achieved within said first fluid reservoir, said fluid flows through said first relief mechanism to said second fluid reservoir to relieve said first pressure.

22. (Original) The fuel cell system of claim 16 further comprising a second relief mechanism that is disposed between said first and second fluid reservoirs and that selectively enables fluid communication between said first and second fluid reservoirs.

23. (Original) The fuel cell system of claim 22 wherein when a second pressure is achieved within said second fluid reservoir, said fluid flows through said second relief mechanism to said first fluid reservoir to relieve said second pressure.

24. (Original) The fuel cell system of claim 17 further comprising a relief mechanism in fluid communication with said first fluid reservoir, said relief mechanism exhausting said fluid to atmosphere during a critical pressure condition.

25. (Original) The fuel cell system of claim 24 further comprising a hydrogen sensor that detects a hydrogen-content of said atmosphere and signals an alert if said hydrogen content achieves a threshold level.

26. (Original) The fuel cell system of claim 17 further comprising a pressure sensor that detects a combined pressure of said first and second fluid reservoirs and signals an alert if said combined pressure achieves a threshold level.